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| **Bell Ringer**-- List 3 characteristics you believe would be part of a culture experiencing a “Golden Age”:  1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

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|  | **What is a Golden Age?**  Objective: Define a golden age. |

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| Historians refer to certain time periods of some civilizations as **golden ages.**  **Golden ages are periods of great wealth, prosperity, stability, and cultural and scientific achievement.** |

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| **Why Golden Ages are Important to Historians** |
| During Golden Ages, a lot of new ideas and **innovations** are produced in **visual arts**, **architecture**, **literature**, **philosophy**, and **science** and **technology** in a relatively short period of time in one geographic area, but those new ideas and ways of doing things do not stay in one place for long. They are carried to other civilizations through **cultural diffusion** and passed down to new generations through the process of **collective learning**.  **Golden Ages move human intellectual and technological life ahead by leaps and bounds.** These spurts of growth in our collective ability to understand the world around us, express it through art, and invent new ways of doing things have been important in getting the human race to where it is today. |

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|  | **How was the Gupta Empire in India a golden age?**  Objective: Identify the achievements of the Gupta Golden Age. |

**How to Turn It In**

* Go to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
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  + Skip to Student
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**Create a well-written paragraph to answer the following:**

* **Task:** Explain how the Gupta Dynasty is referred to as a Golden Age.
  + Use information from 3 documents (Golden Age of Gupta Chart)
  + Include 2 pieces of outside information
    - To assist with outside information, read “The Golden Age of Gupta” handout provided for you in class.
    - This must be typed and handed in via your turnitin account (see above to create)
  + Make sure you cite your documents
  + Refer to handout from class on how to write a DBQ paragraph which included a sample

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| **Document 1: The Gupta Empire (320-550 CE)** |
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| The Gupta Empire ruled parts of India from 320-550 CE. **Chandragupta II** was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire. His rule spanned from 375 to 415 C.E.when the Gupta empire was at its height, often referred to as the *Golden Age* of India. He attained success by pursuing both favorable **military alliances and an aggressive expansionist policy**. Chandragupta II controlled a vast empire, from the mouth of the Ganges to the mouth of the Indus River and from today's North Pakistan south to the mouth of the Narmada.  In addition to military prowess, Chandragupta II elevated culture, art, mathematics, philosophy, religion, and astronomy during his reign.  Source: Adapted from “Chandragupta II” New World Encyclopedia. <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Chandragupta_II> |

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| **Document 2: Trade, Prosperity, and Wealth** |
| **Standardized Money**  Golden Ages require a lot of wealth. For artists and scientists to devote themselves to their work, they need someone to pay them for it so they can focus on their scholarly pursuits. Usually wealthy families or governments provide this support.  The government funded many of the innovations during the Gupta Dynasty. The government regulated and taxed trade and earned money from the mines and land it owned. As evidence of the Gupta government’s control and support for trade in the economy, archaeologists have unearthed many coins created by the Gupta government. The coins show that the Gupta had the technology and power mass-produce them, and the power needed to get merchants to use them. This also made it possible for the government to more easily tax business transactions. |

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| **Document 3: Trade, Prosperity, and Wealth** |
| **On Trade Routes Between Rome and China**  The Gupta ruled the largest and most **prosperous** empire in India, but in the first centuries CE it was not the most powerful in the world. To the west, **Rome** ruled the area around the Mediterranean Sea, and to the east, the **Han Dynasty** controlled China. The stability that the Roman, Han, and Gupta Empires brought to Asia spurred trade on the **Silk Roads**. This greatly benefited all three empires and the areas in between. Wealth and ideas passed along the trade network providing the money and ideas necessary for Golden Ages. |

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| **Document 6: Trade, Prosperity, and Wealth** | |
| **Visual Arts and Architecture: Gupta Cave Shrines**  Most of the examples we have of Gupta sculpture and architecture were inspired by Hinduism and Buddhism. The most well preserved and impressive of these examples are reliefs carved out of caves. | |
| **Udayagiri Caves** | **Ajanta Caves** |
| The image below is of a sculpture carved out of a cave wall of the Hindu god Vishnu in a boar-headed incarnation. It is roughly 23 feet tall and 13 feet wide. | The Ajanta Caves are covered in carvings and paintings that depict the lives of the Buddha. |
| Source: <http://www.ancient.eu/Gupta_Architecture/> | Sources: <http://www.ancient.eu/Gupta_Architecture/>, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ajanta_Padmapani.jpg> |

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| **Document 5: Literature** |
| Some sources state that Chandragupta II supported literature and science in his empire directly by providing for a circle of scholars known as the ***Nine Gems*** in his court. A writer named **Kalidasa** stood as the greatest among them. He authored numerous pieces of literature, poems and plays, earning him the title of “the Shakespeare of India.”  Source: Adapted from <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Chandragupta_II> |

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| **Document 4: Mathematics** |
| **Watch an excerpt of** [**“Ancient India’s Contributions to the World”**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxgK0dX872k) **(7:37- 10:33) and read the text below on other achievements in mathematics and made by Gupta scholars then answer the questions that follow.** |
| Scholars during the Gupta period, made important **advances in mathematics** including:   * a close approximation of the value of \pi**(pi)** * advances in **trigonometry** * the use of **negative numbers** * the use of **decimal points** * **“**Arabic” Numerals (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9) |

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| **Document 7: Science and Technology** | |
| **Stepwell Architecture** | **Metallurgy and the Iron Pillar of Delhi** |
| **Watch an excerpt of** [**“Ancient India’s Contributions to the World”**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxgK0dX872k) **(23:16- 26:38) about stepwells then answer the questions that follow.** | Indian metal workers were known for their expertise in ancient times. Their swords used by their soldiers were admired by other armies for their strength and the officers carried metal bows. In Delhi, there is an iron pillar from the Gupta era that stands 23 ft tall. It is over 1,500 years old but has very little rust or wear. |